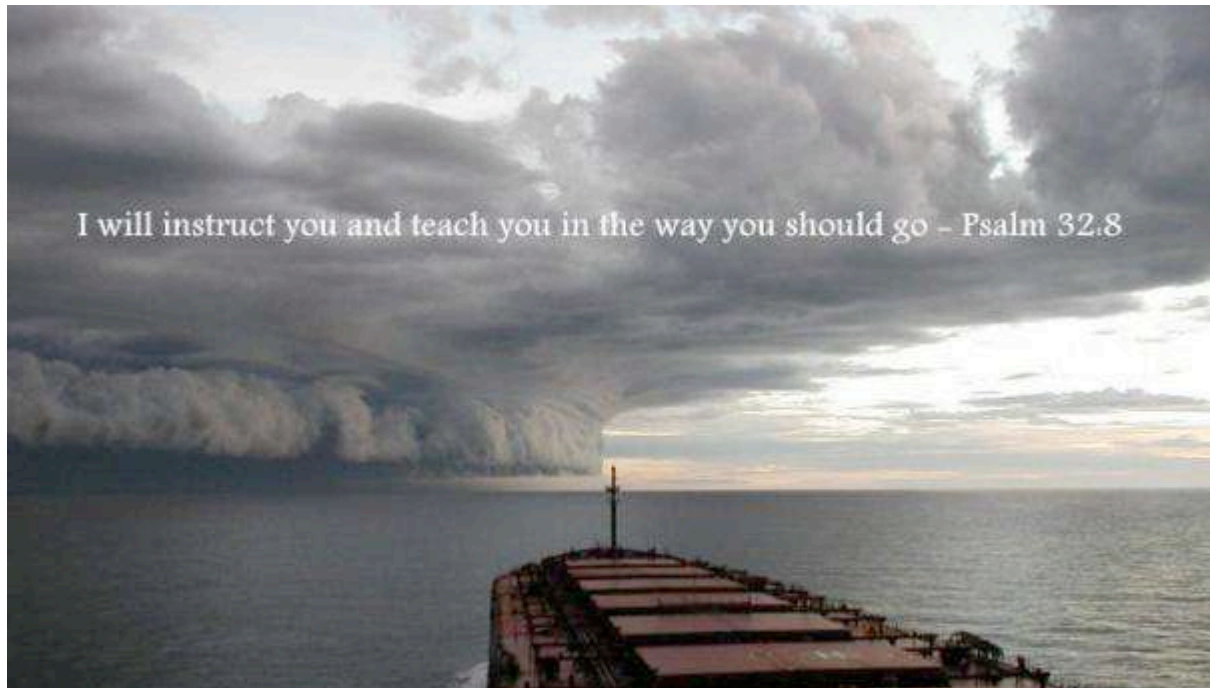


# Last week of July



I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go - Psalm 32:8

WOW  
MINISTRIES

The spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed - Luke 4:18



## BERNARDSHAW

Destined to be HIS disciple - Determined to make disciples

## WORSHIP IN THE PSALMS (Continuation of last week)

### Songs of thanksgiving

Although some lamentations end with gratitude to God, several Psalms have thanksgiving as their main theme – for example, 18, 21, 30, 33, 34, 40, 65-68, 92, 116, 118, 124, 129, 138 and 144.

Again, some of these Psalms express corporate thanksgiving for a successful harvest or a national danger which has been averted, while others express individual thanksgiving for God's personal answer.

These not strict divisions, for some Psalms move from one form to another. For example, 89 begins as a hymn of praise, passes into a long prophetic poem, and ends with a lament; 119 is both a hymn of praise to the law and an individual lament; and some laments are preceded by a prayer (27 and 31) or followed by a thanksgiving (28 and 57).

### PROPHETIC PSALMS

1 Chronicles 25:1-3 shows that prophetic music, prophetic praise, prophetic thanksgiving and prophetic psalmists were an integral part of worship during the reign of King David.

Some Psalms include prophetic sayings, while others are extended prophecies put to music – for example, 2, 50, 75, 81-82, 85, 95 and 110. It seems likely that these were prophecies which were delivered in the course of a temple service by a prophet, and were then used regularly in worship.

The Psalms which are hymns of praise about the holy city and the kingship of God are obviously prophetic, for they look forward to a time of future renewal – to what came to be called 'the messianic age'.

The most important prophetic Psalms, however, are the 'royal Psalms which are scattered through all five books. These include:

- *Pronouncements addressed to the king* – 2, 110
- *Prayers for the king* – 20, 61, 72
- *Thanksgiving for the king* – 21
- *Prayers of the king* – 18, 28, 63, 101
- *A royal processional song* – 132
- *A hymn of the king* – 144
- *A royal wedding song* – 45

At one level, these Psalms simply concern a particular king of Israel or Judah from the time of the kings, and Psalms 2, 72 and 110 could even have been composed as hymns to be sung at a coronation. But they point beyond the king of that day, for they claim that he is a son of God, that his reign is endless and stretches to the ends of the earth, that he will establish permanent peace and justice, and that he will be the saviour of his people.

The regular singing of these songs kept the hope alive that the promises made to David would be fulfilled. The fact that they were still sung long after the end of the monarchy shows that Israel was looking forward to a king, to the Messiah, who would fulfil these prophecies. The Messiah is not mentioned by name in any of the Psalms, but the Jews believed that he was foreshadowed in these Psalms. And the New Testament writers were convinced that these Psalms applied to Jesus as the long- prophesied Messiah.

Psalms like 2, 72 and 110 present an ideal king/priest/judge who was never fully realised in any actual king of Israel or Judah. Only the Messiah combines these roles in the endless, universal reign of peace and justice prophesied in the poetry.

Other prophetic Psalms depict human suffering in terms which seem exaggerated in relation to ordinary experience, but which proved to be extraordinarily accurate descriptions of the actual sufferings of Christ.

Under God's inspiration, the prophetic poets chose words which were full of great significance. Psalm 22, which Jesus quoted on the cross in Matthew 27:46, is the most striking example: verse 16 can be clearly seen in John 20:25 and verse 18 in Mark 15:24. Psalm 69:21 is another example, and this points forward to Matthew 27:34, 48.

The New Testament insists that many Psalms point prophetically to Jesus, for example:

- Psalm 2:7 – Acts 13:33
- Psalm 8:6 – Hebrews 2:6-10
- Psalm 16:10 – Acts 2:27; 13:35
- Psalm 22:8 – Matthew 27:43
- Psalm 40:7-8 – Hebrews 10:7
- Psalm 41:9 – John 13:18
- Psalm 45:6 – Hebrews 1:8
- Psalm 69:9 – John 2:17
- Psalm 110:4 – Hebrews 7:17
- Psalm 118:22 – Matthew 21:42
- Psalm 118:26 – Matthew 21:9

Some scholars believe that many more Psalms than just the 'royal' Psalms point to Jesus. For example, they argue that 8, 16, 22, 35, 40, 41, 68, 69, 97, 102, 118 and 119 anticipate Christ in some way, and they maintain that all the Psalms about the holy city and the kingship of God apply to Christ's mind and mission.

# F r i e n d s h i p w e e k

It was a week of fun, excitement, gifts, games, eating and outing. Yes it was the celebration of Friendship Week at the church.

We came up with creative ideas to keep the young people happy and cheerful during the week. We sensed that the world was celebrating it in a huge, different, worldly way and so we wanted to make merry in a Godly way which would teach the young guys that Jesus alone is a true friend. We praise God for enabling us to exactly do that.

## TIME OF AFFIRMATION:



Affirmation is one thing that was new to the boys as they have never done it/heard it before. Saying good things about each other and affirming made some of them feel embarrassed but few really enjoyed it as they were so excited to know good things

about them which they themselves had never been aware of.

## TIME OF BONDING:

Some of the guys were bold enough to take an extra step to show their love to their friends by gifting them with friendship bands. A few of them apologised for hurting each other which resulted in breaking the bitterness off and ending up in reconciliation.



## "JEHOVAH - JIREH"

Manikandan, the teacher of our Tuition centre (after school centre) had requested prayer as he was awaiting his result for the admission of his Engineering studies. God has answered all our prayers as Manikandan has got admission in Panimalar Engineering College, one of the leading Engineering Universities in Tamilnadu. He had to pay a big amount towards education fees, bus fees and canteen charges within a week of the admission procedures and God also opened doors for him to pay the first semester fees. He will be attending the regular classes from the 6<sup>th</sup> of August. PRAISE GOD.



## "JEHOVAH SHALOM"

PEACE AT HOME (Testimony as shared by Ramani)

We were going through very hard times in our family of late. My husband and I had a big quarrel the other day due to a small misunderstanding which kept disturbing me a lot. I was totally broken and felt like as if I was abandoned in this world. But God spoke during last week's Friday women's prayer meeting as Sister. Annie and other friends encouraged me. We prayed very hard for peace at our home and in a couple of day's time, I could see big changes in our family situation. We are very peaceful now as I have no more misunderstanding with my husband. Praise God.



# Prayer Requests

Please pray for the following people:

- Lakshmi Narayanan -  
for a baby
- Bernard -  
for the audio album to be completed soon
- Kannan -  
for his business
- Beulah -  
for marriage
- Virudhambal -  
to get her money back from people few people have borrowed from her but delaying in returning the money
- Christy -  
for re-union with her husband & for her husband's healing
- Gomathy -  
for a baby